Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship

NEWSLETTER

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Joseph B. Fitch, Editor

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NEW CHAPTER FORMED

One of the exciting events of the past few weeks has been the formation of a new SFF Area Chapter in Omaha, Nebraska. Pictured below are several of the people who will comprise the Steering Committee. The newly appointed and approved Area Chairman is the Reverend Roy Brown, shown third from the left in the back row of this photograph.

One hundred twenty-one persons signed up for Prayer Study Groups on the night the Reverend Fitch spoke to more than three hundred persons in the St. Paul's Methodist Church, Sept. 23. Earlier that day he had spoken to a group of Catholic and Protestant clergymen at the St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, Omaha. A new group with much enthusiasm, the Omaha Chapter promises to work hard, says the Reverend Brown, associate pastor of the First Methodist Church.

STUDY GROUPS

The established Area Chapters have Study Groups--introductory, prayer, healing, and survival, and those in those areas desiring to join church or home Study Groups should contact their Chairman. In less metropolitan centers, however, people would like to form SFF Study Groups. We in the national office will provide assistance as rapidly as we can. Our rapidly expanding membership is thrilling to behold, but it is thrusting many problems upon us causing delays in replies which are irksome to correspondents. Some in areas remote from established chapters have written asking that persons in the vicinity of their communities may contact them if interested in forming Study Groups. Write to these people if you desire to participate:

Pearl Vettaks
110-23 212th Street
Queens Village, New York
Phone: SPruce 6-0934

Alvin J. Bradley
R. D. 2
Cochranton, Pennsylvania

Mr. and Mrs. Gerald Steese
2366 Reimer Road, R. D. 1
Wadsworth, Ohio
Phone: 334-6162

Mrs. Margaret Harris
1170 Springfield Avenue
New Providence, New Jersey

RETREAT SUCCESSFUL

Thirty-eight persons attending the first annual SFF Prayer Retreat at Camp Campbell Conference Center, Lake Villa, Illinois, deemed it highly successful. Those in attendance are pictured here.

Each day began with guided meditation led by Mrs. Joseph Fitch in the chapel. The morning addresses by Mrs. Rosa Page Welch of Chicago, and the Reverend Joseph B. Fitch of Evanston, were followed by question and answer periods and later by small groups learning to pray. After a noon and early afternoon or recreation break, Dr. Ted Solomon, St. Petersburg, Fla., spoke most interestingly on the contributions to meditation from the world's living religions. Small groups assembled again just before the evening meal. In the evening, Mrs. Jo Kimmel spoke and witnessed about her own life of prayer, and gave the closing message on Saturday morning.

The enthusiastic recommendation of those at the Retreat is that another be held next summer. Plans are already being formed.

NEWS OF THE EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR

It is common knowledge that immediately after the Retreat the Reverend Joseph B. Fitch, SFF Executive Director, entered the hospital for treatment of an allergy which revealed some coronary difficulties. These have now been under medical treatment and he returned to work after an absence of four weeks. Just before leaving the John Seely Hospital at Galveston, Texas, however, he went over to Houston where he spoke to a group of SFF members who had assembled to see if the Southeast Texas Chapter could be assisted. About forty persons were present.

Shortly after returning home he went to Omaha as reported elsewhere, held several important telephone conferences with SFF committees on business, visited with the Wisconsin Chairman and his wife, Mr. and Mrs. John Alexander, regarding that chapters work; spoke to a group of interested members of a Sunday School class at the Methodist Church at Rockford, Illinois; attended the Chicago Area Chapter prayer laboratory training school; traveled to Ft. Wayne to confer with SFF members there. In mid-October he was in Madison, Wisconsin with a conference on a new Public Relations Committee. The following week he attended a meeting of the new Publications Committee in New York City, and has since visited Memphis, Tennessee, and Detroit, Michigan on SFF chapter business. On November 4th and 5th, a meeting of the newly formed Study Committee was held in the Methodist Church at Geneva, Illinois where the Reverend Eugene Carter is pastor. The Reverend Fitch has also given assistance to the new 1969 Conference Program Committee which has had two meetings to date. He has also met with both the Executive Committee and the Executive Council during this interval. He is scheduled to speak in the East and Northeast throughout November, returning home November 24. He is planning to go South throùghout January and Southwest and Northwest throughout February as part of his duties. Those interested in having him speak to SFF groups or to represent SFF should write the home office immediately.

REPORTED AREA CHAPTER NEWS

Chicago, Illinois Chicago brought Mrs. Joan Kimmel, SFF Corporation Secretary and Prayer Group Leader, to the First Methodist Church, La Grange, Illinois, Thursday, Friday, and Saturday, October 10, 11, and 12, for a prayer laboratory. On Friday, October 18, Mr. John J. McKean, President of Borcherdt Company, Chicago, was selected by radio station WAIT as "Businessman of the Day" in recognition of his services as Chicago Area Chairman of Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship. On November 6, Joseph Busby, founder of the Spiritual Unity of Nations, spoke in Glen Ellyn, Illinois.

St. Louis, Missouri The Reverend James Martin Flanagan, Vice-President of Spiritual Frontiers Fellowship and Chairman of the St. Louis area, is now on a six-month assignment on the national staff of the Christian Church (Disciples of Christ). He is serving as Special Assistant for Reconciliation, the urban crisis emergency program of the Christian Church. He has been loaned to the national staff from the Christian Board of Publications, St. Louis, which he serves as the Associate Editor of The Christian, the international magazine of the Christian Church. Flanagan believes that much of the crisis relating to urban areas is based on a lack of sensitivity to persons. He hopes to apply his own psychic awareness of the emotions of persons with whom he confers in his efforts to interpret urban crisis. While he is in Indianapolis, where he lives weekdays, he hopes to work toward development of the new SFF group there. Meanwhile Mr. Flanagan plans to name an acting chairman in St. Louis and will nominate a person to be appointed as the new Area Chairman by the SFF Executive Council.

Harrisburg, Pennsylvania Dr. Robert Bradley, M. D., Colorado, and SFF member, spoke on Sunday evening, October 13 on, "The Use of ESP in Medical Practice." Previous to Dr. Bradley's appearance was the Reverend Allen Spraggett, author, editor of The Toronto Star's religion section, and last springs Conference lecturer. On Sunday, November 10, the Reverend Theodore Swager, Washington, D.C. Area Chairman, spoke at a meeting for SFF members only at 7:30 P.M. at the Fourth United Church of Christ. There was a supper at the church at 6 P.M. The only sad note to this vigorous chapter is the resignation of the Reverend Malcolm Carnahan who is moving to Chicago.

Tacoma-Seattle Dr. Leslie Weatherhead's Wounded Spirits was reviewed by the Reverend Milton Andrews, Vice-Chairman. Plans were made for Study Groups on prayer, healing, and dreams. The November 3rd meeting reported on the annual SFF Conference plus a report by persons treated by Philippine women psychic healers touring in the Northwest in September.

Hudson Valley, New York The Hudson Valley SFF Chapter welcomed back the Reverend Samuel Reinke, residing at Goshen, New York, in July. A one-day retreat was held Saturday, October 12.

Baltimore, Maryland On September 8th, the Reverend Arthur Ford gave an inspired address to the Baltimore Area Chapter at the Towson Presbyterian Church with more than 400 in attendance. Olga Worrall spoke on "Development of Spiritual Powers" to an audience of about 400 members and visitors of the Baltimore Chapter, at the Towson Methodist Church on October 6th. After a most interesting address, and the 9:00 o'clock prayer healing period, Ambrose and Olga Worrall were joined by five other persons to demonstrate a "developing circle" complete with trumpet. On November 3rd, the Reverend W. Theodore Swager spoke on "Meditation and Communication for Individuals and Study Groups" to the Baltimore Area Chapter. On January 12th, Fred H. Ohrenschall will be in charge of the Baltimore Chapter program, which will see the organization and instruction of several small Study Groups.

ARTHUR FORD'S WESTERN TOUR

Arthur Ford will spend most of November speaking in California and work his way back East by way of Phoenix, Arizona. Mr. Ford's schedule to date is November 11th and 12th in Little Rock, Arkansas participating in a two-day seminar; November 15th he will speak at a banquet at the Ambassador Hotel in Los Angeles; there will be an autographing party at Ryan's Book Villa in Torrance on November 16th; for further information about meetings in Southern California, contact the Reverend Bernard Burry, Newport Beach; for information about meetings in the San Francisco area, contact Mrs. Dorothy Allen, Los Gatos. For details about the meeting in Phoenix, December 7th and 8th, contact the Reverend Paul Wilkinson, 1601 West Indian School Road, Phoenix.

AN ANNOUNCEMENT

For several years the Executive Council has discussed the possibility of publishing a quarterly journal. There were many pros and cons to be considered, requiring a lot of study.

Our first publication was edited by Dr. Edmund Dyett, then Executive Director. Later we had the good fortune to have one of our members, Mr. Laurence Heron, to offer his editorial services as a labor of love, and the magazine became known as Gate Way. Laurence has given us a valuable amount of time and service over the past six years and has served without pay. Words or money would be inadequate to express our gratitude to him.

About one and a half years ago he advised us of his coming retirement as an employee of the Chicago Tribune newspaper and of his desire to write a book and possibly some columns for the Chicago Tribune. He felt this would be a proper occasion to tender his resignation as editor of Gate Way, giving us time to secure another editor or to study what our future plans should be. Laurence has very graciously served beyond the time of his expected resignation, for which we are deeply grateful. The next issue will be his final one, closing his six years of devoted service as editor.

Since we must get a new editor, the Executive Council has decided to make a long contemplated change to a quarterly journal. This decision was reached after several meetings of a special committee, the Executive Committee, and the Executive Council. It was decided further to publish a monthly Newsletter giving you additional news events and expanded coverage of our steadily growing fellowship.

In the December issue of Gate Way will appear news about the new journal in addition to that of the new monthly Newsletter. Changes often bring a mixture of sadness, excitement, and growth among other things. To guide us through this state of transition, your Executive Council requests your prayers and continued support.

Respectfully,
Ross Sweeny, President

NEWS NOTES

The Rev. Arthur Ford has been appearing on the West Coast, chiefly California and Arizona.... A Study Committee recently met for several days in Geneva, Illinois beginning the development of new study group materials which will be completed in the spring....President Ross Sweeny has just appointed a Long-Range Planning Committee which will soon have its first meeting to outline projected plans for SFF. Details of its work will be announced in the next Newsletter....The membership passed 3,500 this month but we are several weeks behind trying to keep up with requests. Is there a retired couple who could live in their trailer or local housing and give SFF's headquarters in Evanston volunteer assistance? If so, write the Executive Director....Melvin and Dorothy Smith, mediums of Carmel, California, spent a successful summer in England about which we have heard good reports....Ambrose and Olga Worrall appeared November 8th and 9th in Carmel, Indiana, Friend's Church, and we hope to announce a new Indianapolis chapter before very long....The New York City Chapter has been quite active recently with a variety of speakers. Among them have been Alice Freely, Brother Mandus, Bernard Grad, and the Reverend Fitch....We regret to learn of the passing of Mrs. Burton Levering, whose husband has been a long-time leader in Detroit SFF circles.

NEW LIFE MEMBERS

A grand welcome to our newest Life Members:

No. 22-Mr. Neil Hansen; Des Moines, Iowa
No. 23-Mr. Allen McCune; Petoskey, Michigan

Several have become Contributing Members and Patrons since our last report and we are grateful for everyone who is responding to the continuous need for SFF to improve its stewardship.

P. S.
Letters of invitation honoring Mr. and Mrs. Heron at a luncheon have gone to SFF in several states surrounding Chicago. It will be held at the South Shore Country Club, 7059 South Shore Drive, Chicago, Tuesday, December 17 at 12:30 o'clock. Those SFF members at a distance who desire to share in a gift of appreciation to the Heron's may make a check payable to Ruth P. Higgins and mail it to 212 Richards Street, Joliet, Illinois 60433.